

## Area-Wide Soil Contamination Project Common Terms and Definitions

### Terms & Definitions

***Protective measure:*** An action or combination of actions that can be taken to address area-wide soil contamination. Protective measures include: individual protection measures, institutional protection measures, and physical protection measures.

***Individual protection measure:*** An action an individual can independently take to reduce his or her exposure to soil contamination.

***Institutional protection measure:*** An action by government or an agreement between two or more parties that limits or prohibits activities that could result in exposure to contaminants or that could harm an engineered control.

***Physical protection measure:*** An action that reduces contamination levels, or a physical barrier that prevents or limits exposure to contaminants.

### Examples

See examples of individual protection measures, institutional protection measures, and physical protection measures, below.

- Frequent hand washing.
- Removing shoes before entering the home.
- Thorough washing of vegetables.
  
- Restricting uses of or access to property or portions of property where contaminants are located through covenants, easements, zoning, etc.
- Education about actions residents can take to reduce exposure (i.e., education about individual protection measures).
- Maintenance requirements for engineered controls, such as the inspection and repair of fences or caps.
  
- Removing contaminants.
- Treating contaminants to reduce their toxicity or mobility.
- Fencing properties where contaminants are located.

### Alternative Terms & Notes

- Similar to the terms *remedy* and *remedial action* under MTCA but does not require MTCA compliance.
  
- Alternative term: *Community protection measures* used in the Tacoma Smelter Plume and other projects.
  
- Similar to the concept of *institutional controls* under MTCA but does not include fences or other barriers that limit access to property (such barriers are considered engineered controls).
- Alternative, generic term often used: *land use controls*.
  
- Similar to the concept of *engineered controls* under MTCA.

- Capping property with clean soil or other material to prevent contact with contamination.
- Blending contaminated soil with clean soil to reduce contaminant concentrations.

***Institutional Framework:*** A system or process to ensure that area-wide soil contamination problems are identified and to provide for implementation of protective measures in the short- and long-term.

- Local government planning ordinances and zoning requirements
- State government planning and environmental response requirements (e.g., model remedies under MTCA)
- Contracts, covenants and other agreements
- Taxes, assessments, or other funding sources
- Information requirements, systems, and disclosure triggers (e.g., deed notices)

***Management Area:*** A discrete area within area-wide contamination for which data and information are grouped together for the purpose of making decisions about protective measures or other issues.

The management areas currently being used in the project are defined by potential receptor type (i.e., potential for child use or not) and development status and are:

- Commercial / industrial property.
- Non-commercial / industrial property that is already developed.
- Non-commercial / industrial property that is not developed.

Management areas might also be defined, or might be further defined, based on ownership (e.g., using property boundaries), land use (e.g., landscaped area versus forested area), or contaminant source.

- Similar to the concept of *site* and *facility* as used under MTCA or *facility* used in federal cleanup programs.
- Alternative terms include: *target population*, *environmental unit* or *management unit*. Also, *decision area* (used in the Everett smelter cleanup).